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LETTER DATED 25 MARCH 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I am transmitting to you herewith the text of an editorial stating the policy of the United States Government that was broadcast by the Voice of America on the morning of 25 March 1999. Its purport is self-evident.

In bringing this text to your attention, we ask ourselves what the purpose was in broadcasting it now, after the relevant agreements were reached through the Secretary-General of the United Nations and with the mediation of the leaders of South Africa and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

We also wonder to whom they might pay the reward that was announced once again today and whether the intention is to entice adventurers seeking the reward into abducting the two suspects while they are on their way to the Netherlands.

We hope to find that you and the Security Council will have an explanation of the rationale and purposes of the editorial containing this announcement and of the objective in broadcasting it at this particular moment.

We request you to have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Abuzed Omar DORDA
Permanent Representative

Annex

Voice of America editorial stating United States Government policy, monitored in Tripoli, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, on 25 March 1999

Ladies and gentlemen, here is a public service announcement:

On 21 December 1988 a passenger jet left Heathrow Airport bound for the United States. On board the plane, which belonged to the Pan Am company and was designated flight 103, were 259 passengers - men, women and children of 30 nationalities. They included Italians, Hungarians, Argentineans, Filipinos and Indians. Many of the passengers were Americans looking forward to meeting their loved ones for the holidays. Scarcely 35 minutes into the flight, they were all dead. On that day, after 7 p.m., a powerful bomb exploded and destroyed the plane as it was flying at 31,000 feet over the quiet Scottish village of Lockerbie. The passengers and crew died as they sat in their seats and the plane fell with them. This happened in less than three minutes. The 11 people on the ground, on the other hand, met their deaths as a result of the burning wreckage that fell on homes and commercial offices and in the streets.

The two who committed this savage act of international terrorism were agents of the Libyan dictator Muammar al-Qaddafi, and in November 1991 a Federal court issued arrest warrants for Abdel Basset Al-Megrahi (Abd al-Basit al-Maqrahi) and Lamen Khalifa Fhimah (Al-Amin Khalifah Fahimah).

Megrahi is a Libyan national born in Tripoli on 1 April 1952. He is 1 metre 73 centimetres tall and weighs 86 kilograms. His hair is black and curly; his eyes are dark brown; he is strongly built; and his complexion is light brown. He speaks Arabic and English, and he is to be considered armed and extremely dangerous.

Lamen Fhimah is a Libyan national born on 4 April 1956. He is 1 metre 73 centimetres tall and weighs 86 kilograms. His hair is dark brown; his eyes are dark brown; he is strongly built; his complexion is light brown; and he may have a light brown mustache. He speaks Arabic and English, and, like Megrahi, he is to be considered armed and dangerous.

The United States will pay a reward of 2 million dollars for any information leading to the arrest of these two suspects.

If listeners have any information relating to Abdel Basset Al-Megrahi and Lamen Khalifa Fhimah they should contact the nearest United States embassy or consulate or call telephone number 1-800-437-6371.

Information may also be sent over the Internet to the following address: www.heroes.net. "Heroes" is spelled h-e-r-o-e-s.

This has been a world public service announcement from the Voice of America.